

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A tubular filter element obtained by way of a controlled galvanic electroforming process, said filter element having a flexible perforated laminar structure comprising a deposited metal, the laminar structure having microholes extending between a first surface and a second surface thereof, each microhole having a wall which meets the first surface with a rounded edge or tapered configuration in such a manner that the first surface is substantially smooth, and wherein the microholes have a diameter of less than 60 microns.
2. (Previously presented) A filter element according to Claim 1, wherein the microholes have a diameter of less than 30 μm .
3. (Previously presented) A filter element according to Claim 2, wherein the microholes have a diameter of less than 3-4 μm .
4. (Previously presented) A filter element according to Claim 1, wherein the microholes have a polygonal or rhomboid form.
5. (Currently amended) A medical device comprising, ~~at least in part, the a~~ laminar structure ~~of Claim 1~~, the structure having microholes formed therein which are at least sufficiently large to permit the passage of plasma therethrough, the microholes extending between a first surface and a second surface thereof, each microhole having a wall which meets the first surface with a rounded edge or tapered configuration in such a manner that the first surface is substantially smooth, and wherein the microholes have a diameter of less than 60 microns.
6. (Original) A medical device according to claim 5 in the form of a prosthetic hip joint, the hip joint having a leg portion comprising a spike and peg and a hip portion comprising a dish and a cap; wherein the spike and the cap comprise said laminar structure.
7. (Original) A medical device according to claim 5, wherein the laminar structure is formed as a cage, respective ends of the cage being securable either side of a break in a bone or to individual bones to promote regeneration of bone structure across said break or between said individual bones.

8. (Previously presented) A medical device according to Claim 5, wherein the structure is of titanium.

9. (Currently amended) A heat sink comprising ~~the~~ a laminar structure of Claim 1, having microholes extending between a first surface and a second surface thereof, each microhole having a wall which meets the first surface with a rounded edge or tapered configuration in such a manner that the first surface is substantially smooth, wherein the microholes have a diameter of less than 60 microns, and wherein one end of said structure being capable of being ~~is~~ affixed to a surface from which heat is to be conducted.

10. (Original) A heat sink according to claim 9, wherein the structure is of nickel, silver, gold, brass or titanium.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously presented) A filter element according to claim 1, wherein the laminar structure is of nickel.

13. (Previously presented) A filter element according to claim 1, wherein the laminar structure is arranged to facilitate cleaning of the filter element.

14. (Currently amended) A method of forming ~~the~~ a laminar structure of claim 1 comprising selectively depositing in a galvanic electroforming process a metal on a matrix arranged at the electroforming cathode to form said structure with a smooth surface formed with microholes meeting the first surface with a rounded or tapered configuration, the walls of said holes having rounded edges and diameters of less than 60 microns which are formed in dependence upon the length of time the structure is placed in a galvanic bath used in said process and the desired thickness of the laminar structure.

15. (Original) A method according to claim 14, wherein the metal is nickel, gold, silver, brass or titanium.

16. (Previously presented) A filter element according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of the laminar structure is 80 microns to 500 microns.

17. (Previously presented) A filter element according to claim 1, wherein the density of the microholes is between 10 holes/mm and 2 holes/mm.

18. (Previously presented) A filtering device comprising a filter element according to claim 1.

19. Canceled.

* * *